

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

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R 220930Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO YZCSTATE WASHDC 4535

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

USINT BAGHDAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KU LE

SUBJ: KUWAPSI NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OPINION ON LEBANON HARDENS

1. KUWAIT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPROVED FIVE-POINT RESOLUTION ON LEBANON JANUARY 20 WHICH ILLUSTRATES DEEPENING SENSE OF FRUSTRATION WITH LEBANESE CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP AS WELL AS IMPOTENCE OF OUTSIDE ARAB FORCES THUS FAR TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT SITUATION. ALTHOUGH THERE IS ALMOST NO CHANCE THAT ANY OF THE RESOLUTIONS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY GOK, THE ASSEMBLY MOVE IS AN INTERESTING AND TO SOME EXTENT ALARMING REMINDER OF EXTENT TO WHICH KUWAITIS NOW SEE LEBANON IN TERMS STRICTLY OF CONFESSIONAL STRUGGLE. RESOLUTION IS VIEWED LOCALLY AS SIGNIFICANT INDICATOR OF NEW AND GENUINE PUBLIC CONCERN.

2. RESOLUTION INCLUDES MOTIONS CALLING FOR (A) WITHDRAWAL OF ALL
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KUWAITI CAPITAL ON DEPOSIT IN LEBANON (B) DEPORTATION OF ALL

PHALANGISTS WORKING IN KUWAIT (C) THE HOLDING OF ANOTHER ARWT SUMMIT (D) EXTENSION OF AID TO PALESTINIAN AND THEIR MOSLEM SUPPORTERS IN LEBANON AND (E) SYRIAN INTERVENTION IMMEDIATELY. MOVE WAS LED BY NASIHSTE AND ARAB NATIONALIST MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY, BUT IN THE END WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE MOTION TO WITHDRAW KUWAITI CAPITAL WOULD HAVE MUCH EFFECT EVEN IF IMPLEMENTED. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT GOK HAS RELATIVELY LITTLE MONEY PLACED IN BEIRUT BANKS AND THAT, AT ANY RATE, MOST OF WHAT THERE WAS HAS ALREADY BEEN WITHDRAWN. CALL TO DEPORT PHALANGISTS IN KUWAIT IS ALSO UNLIKELY TO RECEIVE ANY OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT, BUT SOME PRIVATE WITCHHUNTS HAVE ALREADY BEGUN. TWO MEMBERS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, KHALID KHALAF AND KHALID AL-MAS'UD, STORMED INTO FASHIONABLE RESTAURANT YESTERDAY AND ORDERED ITS OWNER, A LEBANESE CHRISTIAN WHO ALLEGEDLY SUPPORTS PHALANGE, TO CLOSE. UGLY SCENE FOLLOWED WHICH POLICE EVENTUALLY HAD TO SETTLE. LEBANESE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN KUWAIT (ONE MEMBER OF WHICH IS RAUL JUMAYYIL, BROTHER OF PIERRE) IS SMALL BUT IT IS COMPRISED PRIMARILY OF WELL-HEELED BUSINESSMEN. THE POTENTIAL FOR OTHER INCIDENTS AGAINST THEM WILL INCREASE PROPORTIONATE TO INDICATIONS THAT PARTITION OF LEBANON IS IN CARDS.

4. FINALLY, FROM GOK'S POINT OF VIEW, THE POSSIBILITY OF UGLY TURN AGAINST ITS LEBANESE CHRISTIAN RESIDENTS IS THE LAST THING IT NEEDS. GOK HAS IN RECENT MONTHS HAD ITS SUNNI-SHI'A PROBLEMS AND SOME COOLING OF RELATIONS WITH LARGE LOCAL PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY. THERE IS ALSO CONCERN THAT THE TIFF WITH THE SHAH OVER PERSIAN VERSUS ARABIAN GULF NOMENCLATURE WILL CAUSE RESTIVENESS AMONG KUWAIT'S IRANIAN MINORITY. TO SOME REAL EXTENT, SABAH FAMILY SEES IN THE LEBANON A SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONAL PATTERN PARALLEL TO ITS OWN, AND IS DEFINITELY CONCERNED AT LONG-RANGE POSSIBILITY THAT HISTORY COULD AT SOME POINT REPEAT ITSELF HERE UNLESS LESSONS OF THE LEBANON ARE LEARNED.

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